

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 25, 2002

IN RE:

**APPROVAL OF THE
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATED BY BELL SOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND
ACCUTEL OF TEXAS, INC. PURSUANT
TO SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

DOCKET NO. 01-00892

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

The Petition for Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated Between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Accutel of Texas, Inc. Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at the December 4, 2001 Authority Conference. The Agreement was filed on October 17, 2001 and came before the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252.

Based upon the Petition, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously approved the Agreement and made the following findings and conclusions:

- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

2) The Agreement is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.

3) The Agreement is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the Agreement is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.²

5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

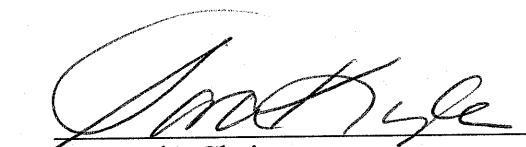
6) The Agreement is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

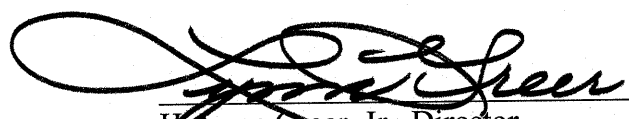
¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)(Supp. 2001).

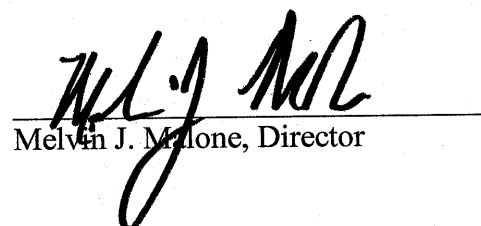
² On December 19, 2001, the Authority issued a data request to BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. requesting information on whether the agreement that is the subject of this docket is consistent with previous decisions. To date, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. has not responded to this request.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

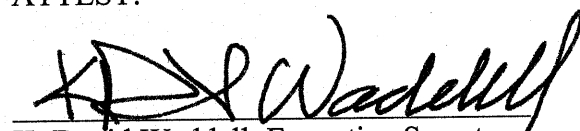
The Interconnection Agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Accutel of Texas, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary